

Whitney Museum of American Art





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*Lyrical
Abstraction*

Lyrical

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

May 25 — July 6, 1971

Abstraction

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Foreword

To be given an entire exhibition surveying a current trend in American art at a single blow is an experience unusual to the verge of the bizarre. Yet that is what Larry Aldrich proposed one rainy afternoon last spring in the galleries of the beautiful Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Needless to say, his offer was accepted with alacrity and gratitude. These 38 paintings are now, therefore, a part of the Whitney Museum's permanent collection and are here shown for the first time as recent acquisitions.

In the accompanying statement reprinted from the catalogue of the Ridgefield exhibition, Mr. Aldrich defines the trend of Lyrical Abstraction and explains how he came to acquire the works. Since his show ended, it has been seen at the Civic Center Museum in Philadelphia and the Phoenix Museum in Arizona. It then came to the Whitney where several artists proposed an exchange of works—generally for the purpose of substituting more recent examples of their painting. With the donor's approval, these exchanges were made and are so indicated in the catalogue. All other works are those selected by Mr. Aldrich for the Ridgefield showing.

I only wish there were more space to describe the great contribution which this small museum has made through its series of brilliant exhibitions devoted largely to the young avant garde in American art. Suffice it to say that they are the reflection of the founder's taste, his unorthodox methods, his unconcern with established reputations and above all his responsive and perceptive eye.

We are grateful to Larry Aldrich not just for this munificent gift, which caps many earlier ones, but, more important, for the great good he has done in encouraging the creative arts in America.

John I. H. Baur

Statement of the Exhibition

Early last season, it became apparent that in painting there was a movement away from the geometric, hard-edge, and minimal, toward more lyrical, sensuous, romantic abstractions in colors which were softer and more vibrant. Painters were creating, in significant numbers, works that were visually "beautiful"—up to then, in the art world of the sixties, a dirty word. Though they were not going back to any previous style, these new young painters related to men who have been doing painting of a painterly nature for twenty years or more—Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell and others. The artist's touch is always visible in this type of painting, even when the paintings are done with spray guns, sponges or other objects. Surfaces are never anonymous as in minimal paintings; they are delicately nuanced and often suggestive of cloudy voids. These paintings all represent a distinct shift to an expressive interest. As I researched this lyrical trend, I found many young artists whose paintings appealed to me so much that I was impelled to acquire many of them. The majority of the paintings in the *Lyrical Abstraction* exhibition were created in 1969, and all are a part of my collection now.

Larry Aldrich
April 1970

Helene Aylon
Victoria Barr
James Beres
Jake Berthot
Dan Christensen
David Cummings
Carl Glicko
John Griefen
Carol Haerer
Gary Hudson
Don Kaufman

The Artists

Jane Kaufman
Victor Kord
Ronnie Landfield
Pat Lipsky
Ralph Moseley
David Paul
Herbert Perr
William Pettet
Murray Reich
Gary Rich
Ken Showell

Alan Siegel
Lawrence Stafford
William Staples
James Sullivan
Herbert Schiffnin
Shirlann Smith
John Torreano
Jeff Way
Thornton Willis
Philip Wofford
Robert Zakanych



Helene Aylon
Homage to Redon. 1970



Victoria Barr
Surfacing. 1971

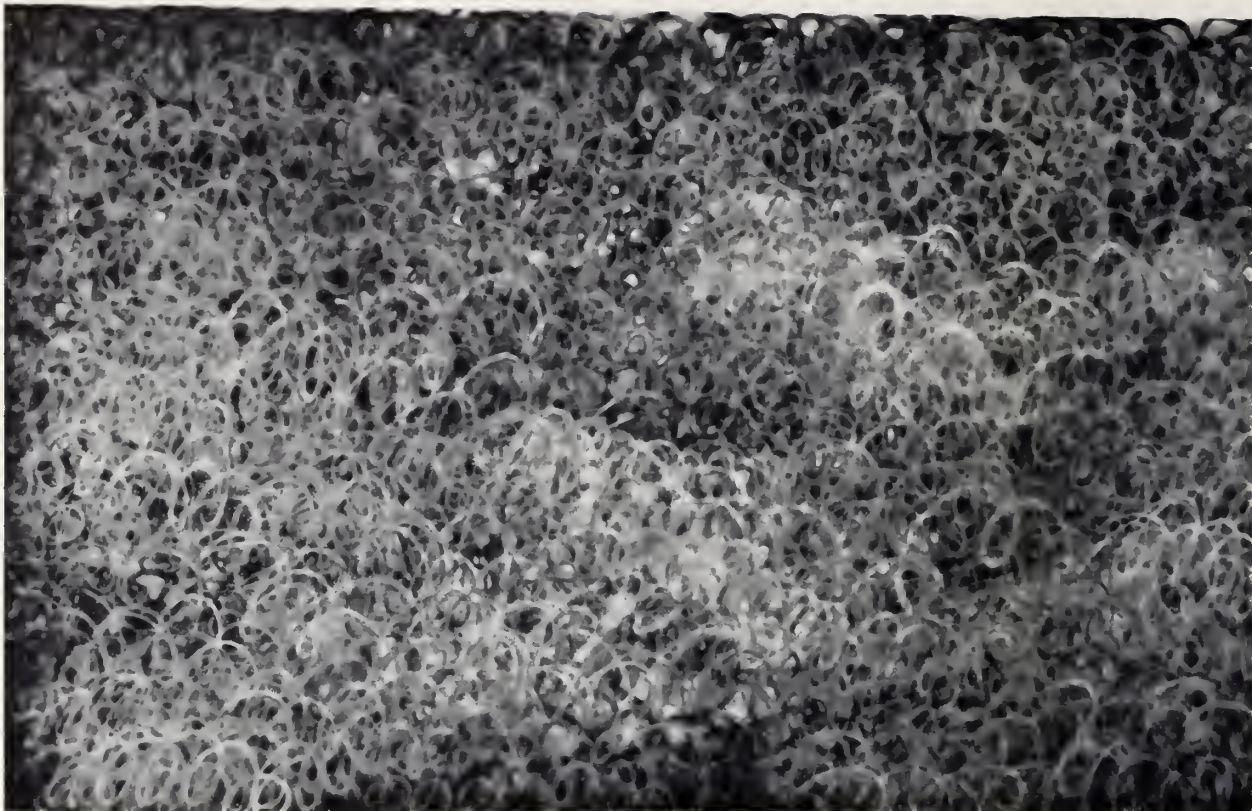
opposite
James Beres
Doughnuts Whistle Two. 1970



Jake Berthot
Hard Green. 1969

opposite
Dan Christensen
Hitchhike. 1969





David Cummings
Untitled. 1969

opposite
Carl Gliko
Loog. 1969





John Griefen
Untitled. 1968

opposite
Carol Haerer
Chant. 1970





Gary Hudson

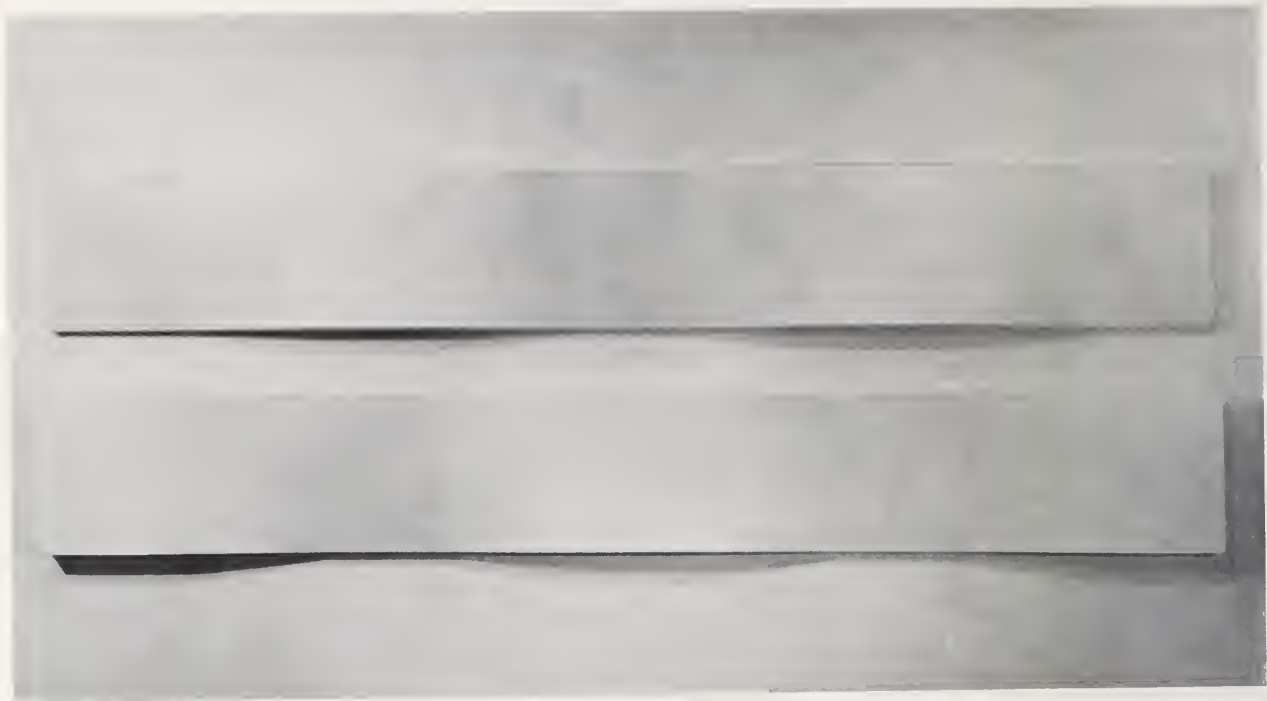
Reflex. 1969

opposite

Don Kaufman

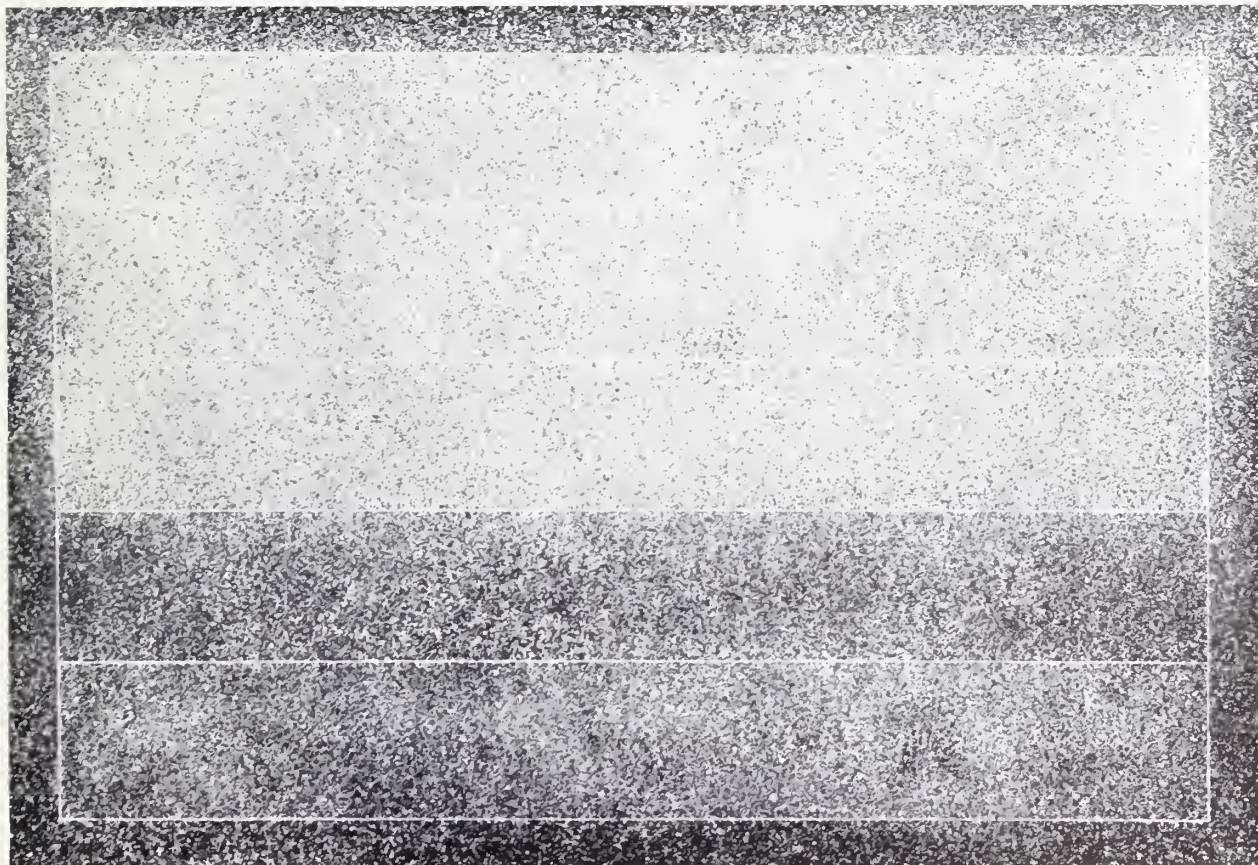
Red Splice. 1971





Jane Kaufman
Untitled 1969

Victor Kord
Untitled. 1970

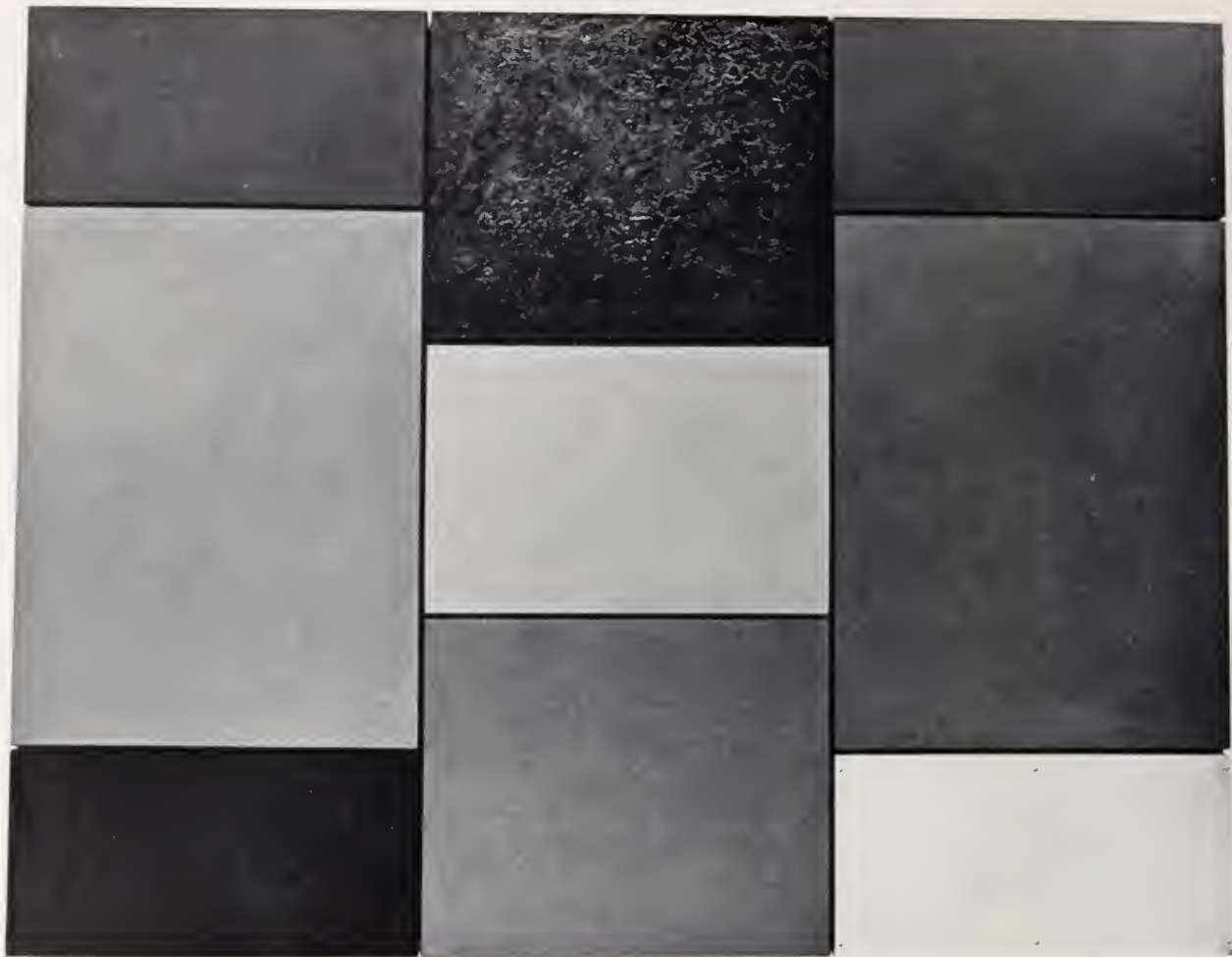




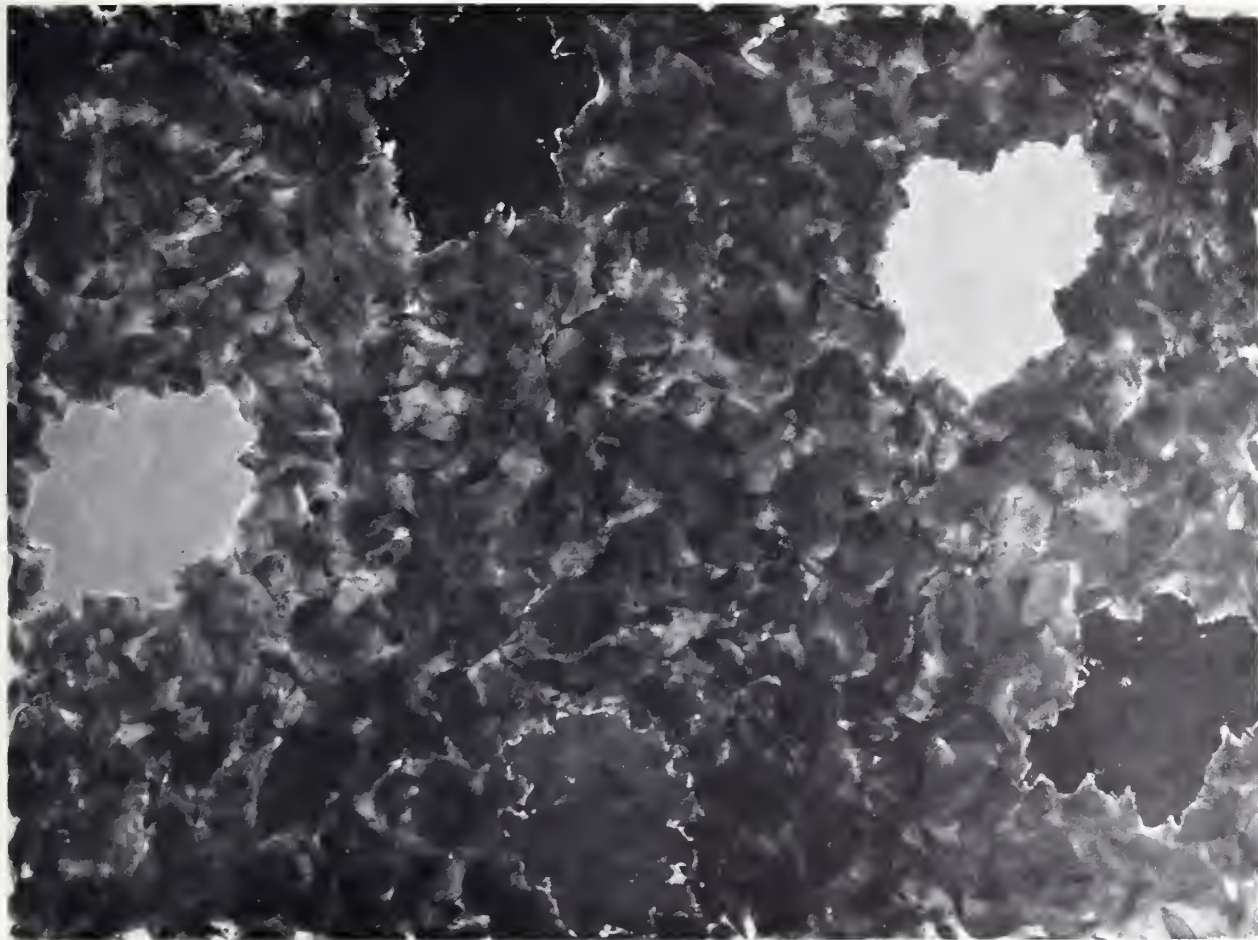


opposite
Ronnie Landfield
Any Day Now. 1969

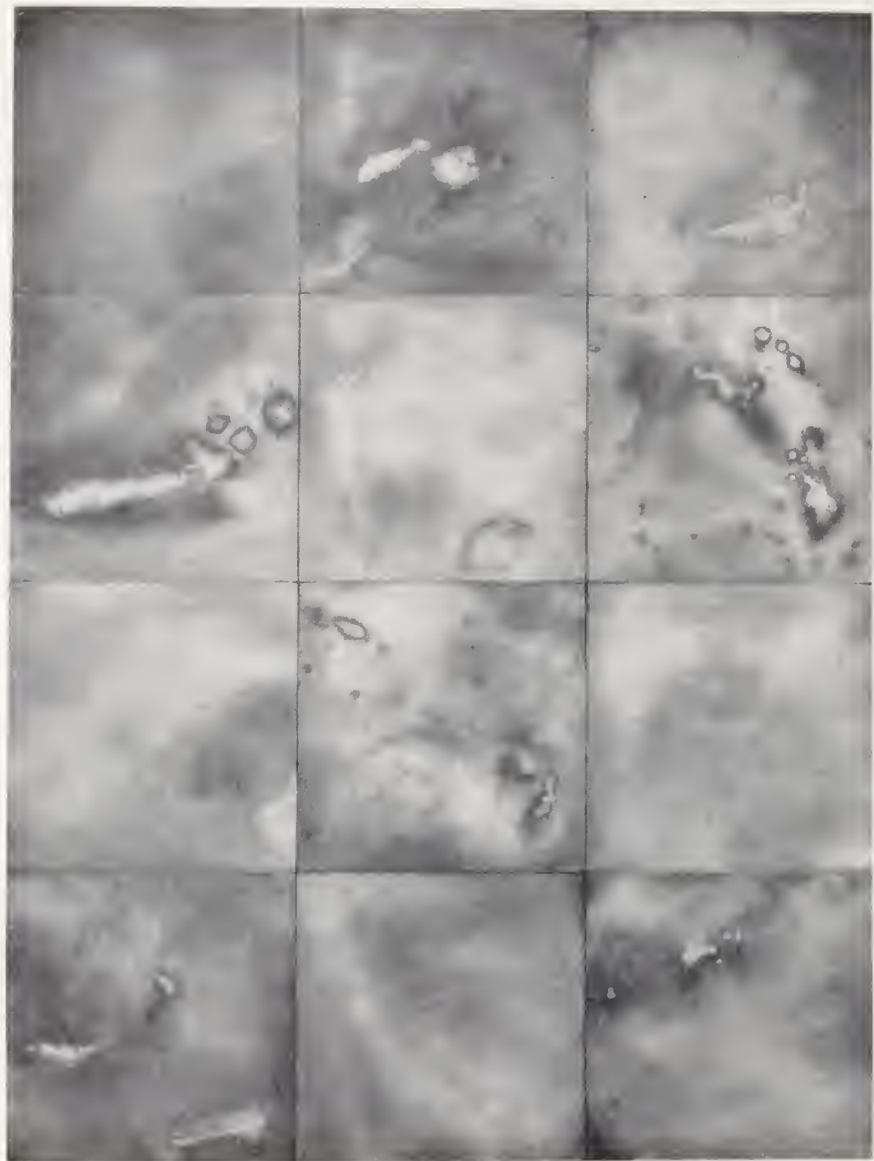
Pat Lipsky
Imirem I. 1971



Ralph Moseley
Gai's Green Sienna. 1970



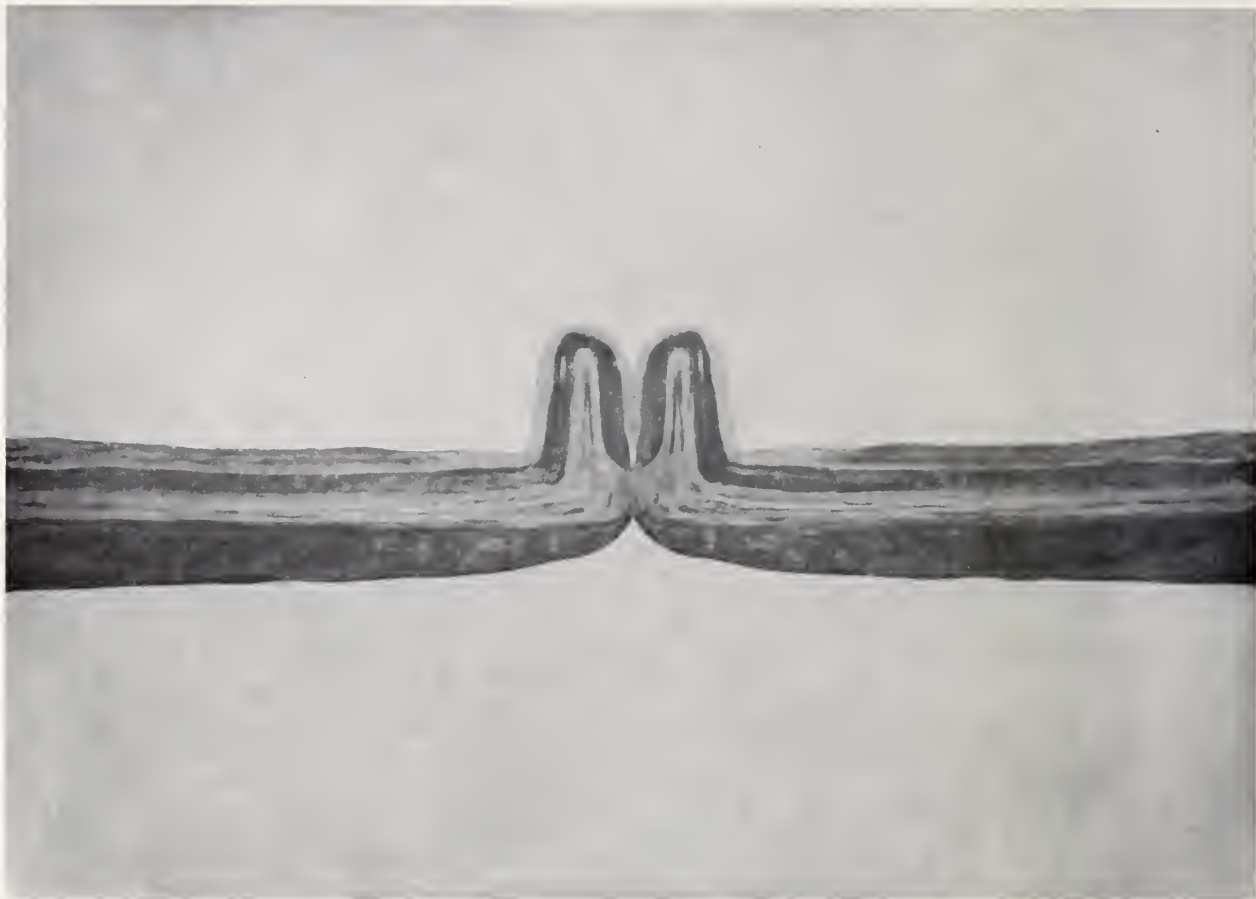
David Paul
Chillicothe. 1971





opposite
Herbert Perr
Untitled. 1970

William Pettet
Untitled. 1969



Murray Reich
Cave Creek. 1969

Gary Rich
Potawatomie III. 1969

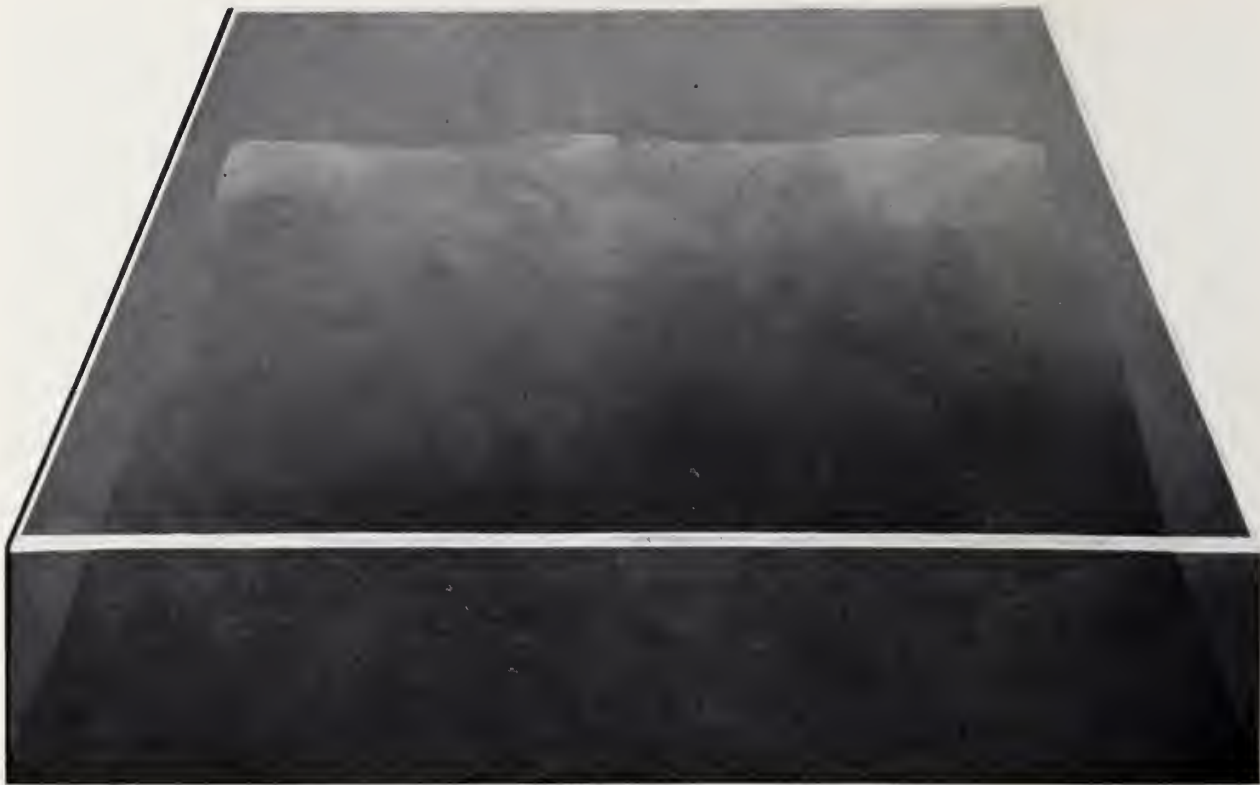






opposite
Herbert Schiffrin
Canal 7. 1970

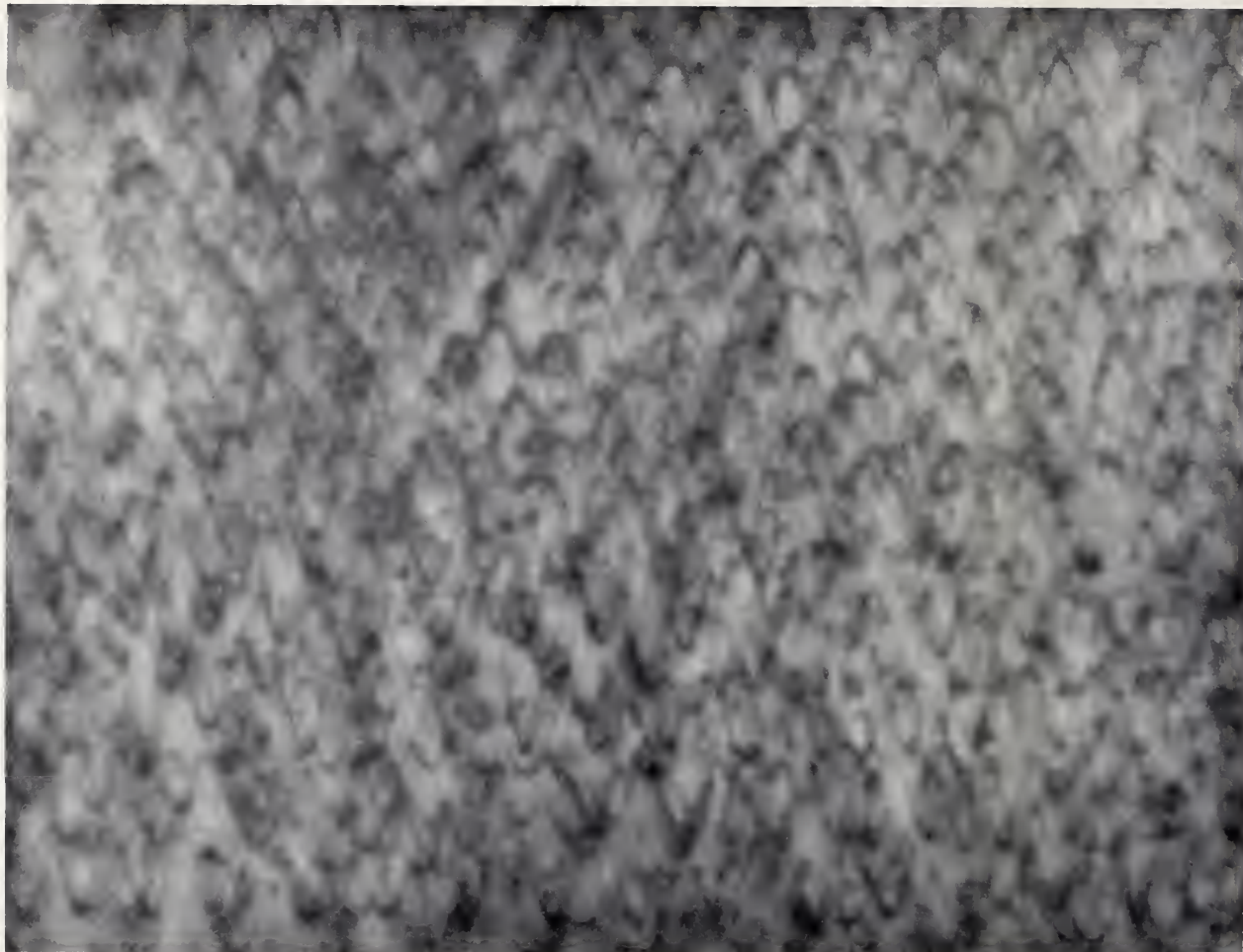
Kenneth Showell
Untitled. 1969



Alan Siegel
Cloud Box. 1969

Shirlann Smith
Whirls. 1969





Lawrence Stafford
Untitled. 1968



William Staples
12769. 1969



James Sullivan
Green Camina. 1969

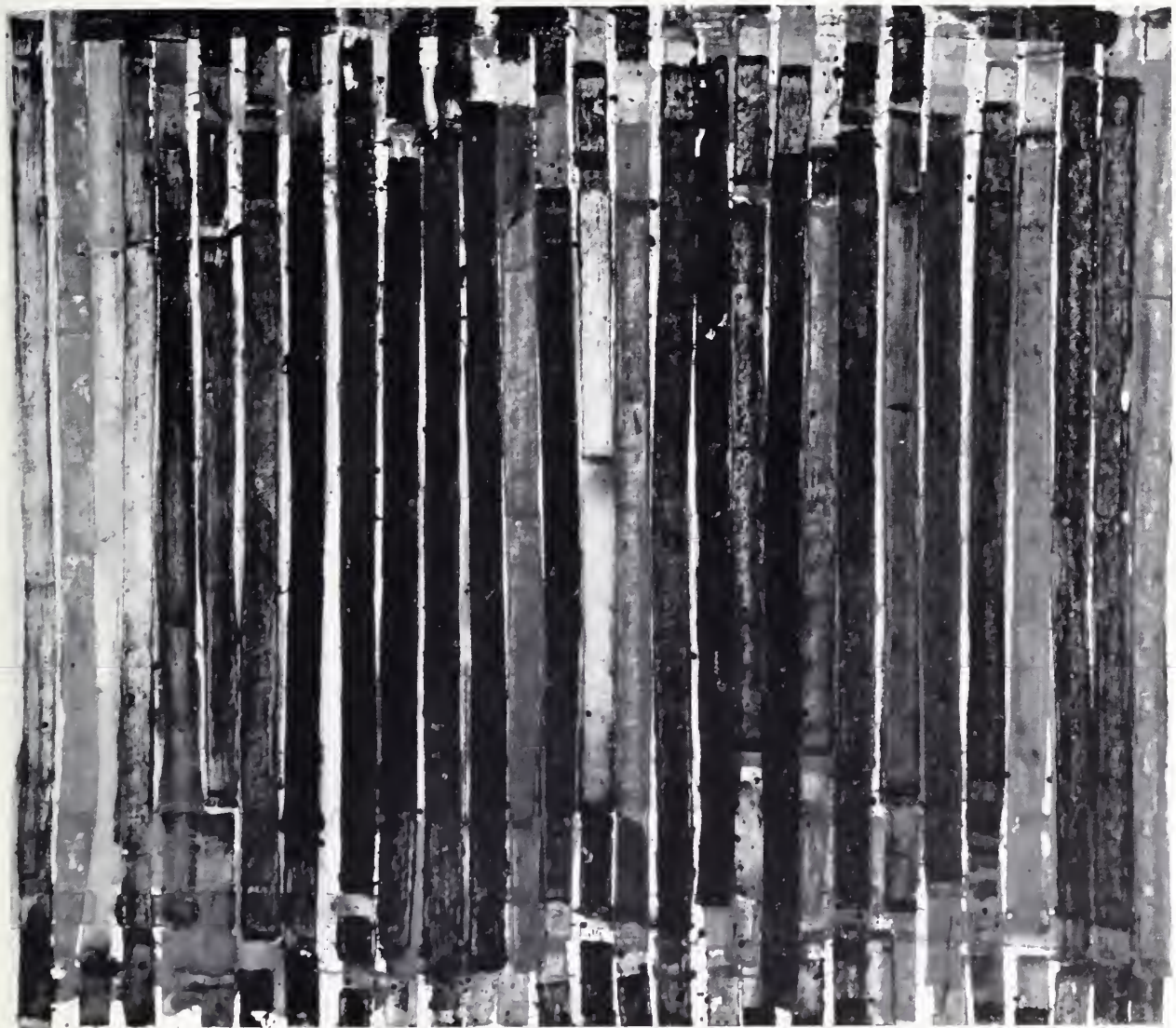


John Torreano
Earth View. 1969



Jeff Way
Ivy's Gas. 1969

opposite
Thornton Willis
Wall. 1969







opposite
Philip Wofford
Accoma Return. 1969

Robert Zakanych
Roseout. 1969

Catalogue of the Exhibition

All dimensions are in inches, height preceding width

Helene Aylon b.1953

Homage to Redon. 1970

Mixed media 36 x 96

Victoria Barr b.1937

Surfacing. 1971

Acrylic on canvas 69 x 85½

James Beres b.1942

Doughnuts Whistle Two. 1970

Acrylic on canvas 96 x 84

Jake Berthot b.1939

Hard Green. 1969

Acrylic on canvas 48 x 96

Dan Christensen b.1942

Hitchhike. 1969

Acrylic on canvas 76 x 96

David Cummings b.1937

Untitled. 1969

Acrylic on canvas 64 x 129

Untitled. 1969

Acrylic on canvas 98 x 132

Carl Gliko b.1941

Loog. 1969

Acrylic on canvas 89 x 65

John Griefen b.1942

Untitled. 1968

Oil on canvas 44 x 94

Carol Haerer b.1933
Chant. 1970
Acrylic on canvas 95¼ x 95¼

Gary Hudson b.1936
Reflex. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 84 x 120

Don Kaufman b.1935
Red Splice. 1971
Acrylic on canvas 73½ x 84

Jane Kaufman b.1938
Untitled. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 36 x 90

Victor Kord b.1935
Untitled. 1970
Acrylic on canvas 72 x 108

Ronnie Landfield b.1947
Orange Painting 1. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 108 x 120
Any Day Now. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 108 x 88

Pat Lipsky b.1941
Imirex I. 1971
81¼ x 104¼

Ralph Moseley b.1941
Gai's Green Sienna. 1970
Mixed media 84 x 108

David Paul b.1943
Chillicothe. 1971
Acrylic in canvas 94 x 127

Herbert Perr b.1941
Untitled. 1970
Acrylic on canvas 96 x 72

William Pettet b.1942
Untitled. 1968
Acrylic on canvas 56 x 106
Untitled. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 76 x 144

Murray Reich b.1932
Cave Creek. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 78 x 108

Gary Rich b.1943
Potawatomie III. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 88½ x 159½

Herbert Schiffrin b.1944
Canal 7. 1970
Acrylic on canvas 95½ x 107½

Kenneth Showell b.1939
Untitled. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 84 x 116

Alan Siegel b.1938
Cloud Box. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 67 x 108

Shirlann Smith b.1931
Whirls. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 84 x 120

Lawrence Stafford b.1938
Untitled. 1968
Acrylic on canvas 72 x 96
Untitled. 1968
Acrylic on canvas 72 x 96

William Staples b.1934
12769. 1969
Oil on canvas 72 x 72

James Sullivan b.1939
Green Camina. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 84 x 120

John Torreano b.1941
Earth View. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 84 x 130

Jeff Way b.1942
Ivy's Gas. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 84 x 144

Thornton Willis b.1938
Wall. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 96 x 114

Philip Wofford b.1935
Accoma Return. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 87 x 105

Robert Zakanych b.1935
Roseout. 1969
Acrylic on canvas 80 x 144

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